

STAT

March 27, 1989

We are very grateful for your support of the legislation that has made an important difference in the lives of former spouses of CIA overseas officers (the CIA Spouses Retirement Equity Act of 1982 and subsequent legislation of 1986, 1987, and 1988). We appreciate your interest in this landmark legislation which recognized the unique and valuable contributions made by all such spouses to the U.S. mission abroad.

As you know, CIA spouses often are divorced after many years of overseas service during which they sacrificed both their own comfort and careers to assist in carrying out the foreign policy objectives of their government. The legislation has proved to be vital to the well being of these women, who following a divorce can find themselves left alone, without work records, retirement benefits, health insurance, or even a modest income. These hardships can repeat their impact on children still at home.

At a recent gathering of our informal support group for these former wives, the women expressed gratitude for the recently legislated benefits they are now receiving or will receive--annuities and medical insurance coverage. Their years of marriage ranged from 19 to 39, they had served overseas from six to 20 years and in up to six countries each. We have attachment some of their comments.

Again, we wish to thank you on behalf of all CIA spouses, both current and former, who are (or will be) beneficiaries of the legislation for which you provided such important support.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Colby

Attachment, as stated.

REFS: PL 97-269
PL 99-569
PL 100-178
PL 100-453

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